

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 EUR-12  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /061 W  
-----105752 151746Z /46

R 151400Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6787  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 1546

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAIR, SPOP, GY  
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CONTROL SELLING OF AIRLINE TICKETS  
FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

REF: GEORGETOWN 1501

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA (GOG) INTRODUCED ON MAY 12 IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY A BILL TO RESTRICT THE PURCHASE IN GUYANA OF AIRLINE TICKETS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL. AFTER THE BILL'S ASSURED PASSAGE BY THE GOG-CONTROLLED PARLIAMENT, GUYANESE CITIZENS WILL IN THE FUTURE BE ABLE TO OBTAIN AIR PASSAGE ABROAD ONLY THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED GUYANA AIRWAY CORPORATION (GAC) OR ITS DESIGNATED AGENTS. IN ADDITION TO SUPERIMPOSING THE IMPLIED THREAT OF GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE OF CITIZENS INTENDING TO GO ABROAD, THE BILL WILL HAVE ALSO THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF LOWERING THE RATE OF COMMISSION THAT THE "DESIGNATED" TRAVEL AGENTS RECEIVE ON THEIR SALES OF AIRLINE TICKETS.

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2. IT IS EXPECTED THAT LOCAL OFFICES OF INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES SUCH AS PAN AMERICAN WILL BE DESIGNATED AS AGENTS OF GAC AND WILL THUS BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO SELL TICKETS DIRECTLY TO CUSTOMERS, ALBEIT AT A SOMEWHAT REDUCED COMMISSION. WHETHER LOCAL TRAVEL AGENTS WILL ALSO BE DESIGNATED AS AGENTS IS PROBLEMATIC AT THE MOMENT.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THE TRAVEL BILL IS CONSISTENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S AVOWED AIM OF INCREASING THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT OF A FULLY SOCIALIST STATE, TWO OTHER CONCERNS ARE SIGNIFICANT IN THE VIEW OF MANY OBSERVERS. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION THAT THE TRAVEL BILL IS THE FIRST STEP IN TIGHTENING UP GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL ON TRAVEL ABROAD(REFTEL). SECONDLY, IT MAY BE THAT REGULATIONS ACCOMPANYING THE BILL WILL BE DESIGNED TO TIGHTEN UP FOREIGN EXCHANGE LOOPHOLES WHICH NOW PERMIT GUYANESE RESIDENTS TO BUY AIRLINE TICKETS LOCALLY FOR GUYANESE DOLLARS FOR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES ABROAD WHO THEN CREDIT THE RESIDENTS' FOREIGN HELD ACCOUNT IN HARD CURRENCY, THUS CLOSING PERHAPS THE LAST REMAINING LEGAL AVENUE BY WHICH A GUYANESE CITIZEN COULD MAKE A FOREIGN TRANSFER.  
BURKE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRAVEL CONTROLS, AIRLINES, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, AIR FARES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Message ID:** 4f8d1c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** 78 GEORGETOWN 1501  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2692077  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CONTROL SELLING OF AIRLINE TICKETS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL  
**TAGS:** EAIR, SPOP, PGOV, GY, GUYANA AIRWAY CORP, GAC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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